



Brecksville

United Church of Christ

23 Public Square • Brecksville • Ohio • 44141 • 440-526-4364

***Loving, Serving and Accepting All People
with God's Life-Changing Power***

"Absence is to
love, what wind
is to fire; it
extinguishes
the small, it
inflames the
great."

—Roger de
Bussy-Rabutin,
French
memoirist,
d.1693



Sunday October 10th, 2021 • 10:00 AM

Pastor

• Allan Lane

Director of Music

• David Debick

Financial Secretary

• Joy Garapic

Office Manager

• Anne Melfo

Ministers – All of Our Members

Affirmation of Welcome

We are an Open and Affirming Congregation, welcoming all of God's children.

*Whether you are single, married, divorced, separated,
or partnered,*

You Are Welcome Here!

Whatever your race, ethnicity, or age,

You Are Welcome Here!

Whatever your gender identity or sexual orientation,

You Are Welcome Here!

Whatever your religious background, creed, or spirituality,

You Are Welcome Here!

Whatever your social or economic circumstances,

You Are Welcome Here!

Whatever your health conditions, impairments, or mobility needs,

You Are Welcome Here!

Whoever we may be, wherever we are on our life's journey,

We welcome one another to this place,

Even as God welcomes us all in Jesus Christ!



- *Please sign our guest book in the narthex before you leave - if you are interested in learning more about our church, please feel free to speak to our pastor.*
- *Hearing difficulty? Please talk to any usher about a Personal Sound receiver available for your use.*

Office Hours:

Mon., Tues., Wed., Thurs.: 9:30am - 12:30pm

Church Phone: 440-526-4364

e-mail: buccoffice23@gmail.com – web address: www.BrecksvilleUCC.org



October 10th, 2021

Meditation Music

"Of course I'll hurt you. Of course you'll hurt me. Of course we will hurt each other. But this is the very condition of existence. To become spring, means accepting the risk of winter. To become presence, means accepting the risk of absence."

– ***Manon, Ballerina***, by Antoine de Saint-Exupéry

Gathering in God's Presence

(Please Stand as you are able.)

Prelude

Deliver Us, O God of Israel

Foley

"To you we lift our soul, O Lord; in you, O God, we trust.

Let us not be put to shame."

(Text based on **Psalm 25: 1-2**)

Bearing the Light of Peace

Bearing the Light of Christ

*** Call to Worship:**

- Leader: We come into what we hope is God's presence.
- **People: Sometimes God is hard to find, for our God is a hidden God.**
- Leader: And yet God has become visible to us in Jesus Christ, God in human flesh.
- **People: Jesus promised to be with us always, even to the end of the age. God is with us. God is present. Let us worship God!**

1. Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
Most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
almighty, victorious, your great name we praise.

2. Unresting, un-hasting, and silent as light,
not wanting, not wasting, but ruling in might;
Your justice like mountains high soaring above,
your clouds which are fountains of goodness and love.

3. Your life is life-giving--to both great and small;
in all life you're living, the true life of all;
We blossom and flourish as leaves and as flowers,
then wither and perish--but naught dims your powers.

4. So perfect your glory, so brilliant your light,
your angels adore you, all veiling their sight;
All praise we now render as your angels do:
in awe at the splendor of light hiding you.

(Music: Adapt. from a Welsh ballad in John Roberts' *Caniadaeth y Cysegr*, 1839;
text: Walter C. Smith, 1867; alt.)

*** Prayer of Approach and Confession: [Unison]**

O Invisible, All-mighty, wonderful God, we come before you with open eyes and open ears and open hearts. We ask that you would reveal yourself to us in our own lives and in the lives of others. May our eyes see you in the beauty of the creation. May our ears hear you as you speak to our consciences, sometimes to bring us up short when we have sinned, sometimes to relieve our guilt when we have been forgiven. May our hearts respond in love to the love you offer us in the Scriptures, in answer to prayer, in the Spirit's connection to us, in this community. Though sinful eyes cannot see you, we ask you to clear our vision through Jesus Christ. Forgive us the sins we acknowledge are ours, that we may be made ready for your appearing. Amen

* Words of Assurance:

- Leader: The Apostle Paul wrote, “However, as it is written: ‘What no eye has seen, what no ear has heard, and what no human mind has conceived’ – the things God has prepared for those who love God – these are the things God has revealed to us by God’s Spirit.”
- People: **God’s Spirit has revealed our full forgiveness of sins in Jesus Christ, and the gift of eternal life. Thanks be to God! Amen**

Song of Praise: ***Glory to God***

Pablo Sosa, 1988

Glory, glory, glory –

Glory to God in the highest! (2X’s)

***And on earth be peace to all people,
For God loves us all! (2X’s)***

God Is Still Speaking

(See back of bulletin for complete readings)

Youth Anthem ***I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me*** African American Trad. Gabriella and Giuliana Gagliano, Joyful Noise duet

- Verse 1: I'm gonna live so God can use me anywhere Lord, anytime. (twice)
V. 2: I'm gonna work so God can use me....
V. 3: I'm gonna pray....
V. 4: I'm gonna sing....
V. 5: I'm gonna learn....
V. 6: I'm gonna love....

First Reading (Allan): Job 23:1-9, 13 *Job searches for God*

Second Reading: Psalm 22: 1-15 *The Psalmist forsaken*

Third Reading (Allan): Psalm 73 *My foot had almost slipped*

Anthem

How Much Longer

Debick

REFRAIN: How much longer will you forget me, Lord?
Forever? Lord, forever?
How much longer will you hide your face from me?
How long will sorrow fill my heart?

Verse 1: Look at me, O Lord my God, and answer me, answer me!
Restore my strength, don't let me die. (**REFRAIN**)

Verse 2: I rely on your constant love; I'll be glad when you set me free.
O I will sing of your goodness to me. (**REFRAIN**)

-Text based on **Psalm 13**

Sermon

Job And The Absence of God

Pastor Allan Lane

Hymn of Reflection:

Be Still, My Soul

#488

1. Be still, my soul: for God is on your side; bear patiently the cross of grief or pain;
Leave to your God to order and provide; in every change God faithful will remain.
Be still, my soul: your best eternal friend through thorny ways leads to a joyful end.

2. Be still, my soul: for God will undertake
to guide in future days as in the past.
Your hope, your confidence let nothing shake
all now mysterious shall be clear at last.
Be still, my soul: the waves and winds still know
how Jesus' power ruled them long ago.

3. Be still, my soul: the hour will soon be here
when we shall be with God whom we adore,
with disappointment gone, no grief nor fear,
sorrow replaced with joy forevermore.
Be still, my soul: when change and tears are past,
all safe and blessed we shall meet at last.

(Music: Jean Sibelius, 1899; text: Katharina von Schlegel, 1752; transl. Jane Laurie Borthwick, 1855; alt.)

The Church at Prayer

George Snider, Suzanne Patrick, David Pastor, Peg Duffy, Lenore Harris, Tina Ortiz, Phyllis Hassler, Lois Lorenzo, Sandra Lane, Joanne Cook, Terry Heiman, Joanne K., Bill Toneff, Dassie Matsuoka, Cindy Burton, Ann Roha, Elizabeth Gadus, Ann Klonowski, Sheila Day, Jim C., Max Roha, Betty Kaul, Anna Mary Fisher, Jan Wardlaw, Stan McCain, Dottie Faust, Jon Thompson, Kathy Smith, Kathleen Stewart & Joe Blasko (her father), “Edna House”, people who are unemployed and under employed.

(Please let the office know of any additions, corrections, or changes to our prayer lists.)

The Church at Prayer (continued)

Silent Meditation

Prayers of the Church

Our Lord’s Prayer [the additional use of “Mother” is optional, according to One’s Theological understanding]

...Our Father-Mother, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever, Amen.

Presenting Our Tithes and Offerings

***The Invitation:**

- Leader: Wherever your people go, O God, there you are in the midst of them. We carry your Spirit within us to do good in our community. With an outpouring of your Spirit, let us now make our gifts and offerings to you.

Offertory Hymn: **We bring our gifts because we care,
They are a part of what we share.
Our love is strong, it heals, uplifts.
With hearts of joy we share our gifts. Amen**

*Prayer of Dedication: [Unison]

May these gifts and offerings, and the service of your people, make your presence visible in our community and our world, O Invisible and Divine Presence. Amen

Going with God's Love

Hymn of Departure *We Love Your Realm, O God* #312, v. 1, 3 & 4

1. We love your realm, O God, all places where you reign.
We recognize, with hope and joy, the world as your domain.

3. We recognize, with pain, that we have not achieved
The faithfulness of our resolve when we at first believed.

4. Yet Christ, our friend and guide, continues to forgive,
Delivering us from our mistakes, inviting us to live.

(Music: Williams' *New Universal Psalmist*, 1770; text: Timothy Dwight, 1801;
adapt. Lavon Bayler, 1992)

Carrying the Light of Christ into the World – Acolyte

Two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like. The lyrics are written below the notes. Chord symbols are placed above the notes: A, E, A, D, Bm, E, C#7, F#m, Bm, E7sus4 E7, A.

Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja. Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja.
Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja. Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja.

† Benediction

Postlude *To You, O God, I Will Sing Forever* Dengler

WISHING YOU A
BLESSED AND HEALTHY
WEEK AHEAD!

BUCC ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **WE WELCOME** all our guests who are worshiping with us today. Please sign our guest book before you go and thank you for coming!

- **2021 ADVENT BOOK CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS** – Every year, BUCC members contribute to the Advent Book – 40 days’ worth of prayers, insights and interpretations of a variety of Advent-related bible verses. Last year due to COVID, we leveraged a variety of writings from years past to compile the book. This year we would like to return to fresh writings, and open it up to what members would like to share about their personal experience during the pandemic. We had a small taste of this at the service on September 19th and thought it would be good to open up this opportunity to those who cannot attend in person.

If you are interested in sharing your experience (or two or three), please email it to **Sue Maier** at **Eyerienne@aol.com** (there is always the option to provide a hard copy to the office if email isn’t your thing). What you write is up to you, but it should relate to the overall goal of the Advent book as a way to reflect on the coming of Christ. Here’s a link to a great article to inspire you: http://www.ucc.org/into_the_mystic_advent/.

We will collect open submissions until October 11th. At that time, we’ll look at how many we have, put together verses for the remaining days, and reach out again for volunteer writers in our more traditional manner. Submissions will close on November 1st, to provide sufficient time to put the book together for distribution. Should we have any open days, we will go back to previous Advent Books for content.

I don’t consider myself a “religious” person, but I do look forward to the Advent Book and feel like it brings me closer to the people in this amazing congregation. I keep it by my bed and read the daily offering before bed each night – for me, this just adds to the magic of the season. If the feelings and experiences shared on September 19th are any indication, I think we can create something very special for Advent 2021.

– Sue Maier, Spiritual Life Committee Chair

- **PASTOR’S FUND** – The Pastor’s Fund is currently running low. Please consider making a small donation to the Blessings Jar (located behind the last full length pew, just off the center aisle) - thank you!

Readings

First Reading (read by Pastor Allan)

Job 23:1-9, 13-17 *Job searches for God*

Then Job replied: "Even today my complaint is bitter; God's hand is heavy in spite of my groaning. If only I knew where to find God; if only I could go to God's dwelling! I would state my case before God and fill my mouth with arguments. I would find out what God would answer me, and consider what God would say to me. Would God vigorously oppose me? No, God would not press charges against me. There the upright can establish their innocence before God, and there I would be delivered forever from my judge."

"But if I go to the east, God is not there; if I go to the west, I do not find God. When God is at work in the north, I do not see God; when God turns to the south, I catch no glimpse of God.

Second Reading

Psalms 22: 1-15 *The Psalmist forsaken*

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from saving me, so far from my cries of anguish? My God, I cry out by day, but you do not answer, by night, but I find no rest.

Yet you are enthroned as the Holy One; you are the one Israel praises. In you our ancestors put their trust; they trusted and you delivered them. To you they cried out and were saved; in you they trusted and were not put to shame.

But I am a worm and not a man, scorned by everyone, despised by the people. All who see me mock me; they hurl insults, shaking their heads. "He trusts in the Lord," they say, "let the Lord rescue him. Let God deliver him, since he delights in God."

Yet you brought me out of the womb; you made me trust in you, even at my mother's breast. From birth I was cast on you; from my mother's womb you have been my God.

Do not be far from me, for trouble is near and there is no one to help. Many bulls surround me; strong bulls of Bashan encircle me. Roaring lions that tear their prey open their mouths wide against me. I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint. My heart has turned to wax; it has melted within me. My mouth is dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue sticks to the roof of my mouth; you lay me in the dust of death.

Readings

Third Reading (read by Pastor Allan)

Psalm 73 *My foot had almost slipped*

A psalm of Asaph.

Surely God is good to Israel, to those who are pure in heart. But as for me, my feet had almost slipped; I had nearly lost my foothold. For I envied the arrogant when I saw the prosperity of the wicked.

They have no struggles; their bodies are healthy and strong. They are free from common human burdens; they are not plagued by human ills. Therefore pride is their necklace; they clothe themselves with violence. From their callous hearts comes iniquity; their evil imaginations have no limits. They scoff, and speak with malice; with arrogance they threaten oppression. Their mouths lay claim to heaven, and their tongues take possession of the earth. Therefore their people turn to them and drink up waters in abundance. They say, "How would God know? Does the Most High know anything?"

This is what the wicked are like—always free of care, they go on amassing wealth. Surely in vain I have kept my heart pure and have washed my hands in innocence. All day long I have been afflicted, and every morning brings new punishments. If I had spoken out like that, I would have betrayed your children. When I tried to understand all this, it troubled me deeply till I entered the sanctuary of God; then I understood their final destiny.

Surely you place them on slippery ground; you cast them down to ruin. How suddenly are they destroyed, completely swept away by terrors! They are like a dream when one awakes; when you arise, Lord, you will despise them as fantasies.

When my heart was grieved and my spirit embittered, I was senseless and ignorant; I was a brute beast before you. Yet I am always with you; you hold me by my right hand. You guide me with your counsel, and afterward you will take me into glory. Whom have I in heaven but you? And earth has nothing I desire besides you. My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.

Those who are far from you will perish; you destroy all who are unfaithful to you. But as for me, it is good to be near God. I have made the Sovereign Lord my refuge; I will tell of all your deeds.

Special Thanks:

OCTOBER 10, 2021

Head Usher: Jon Thompson
Ushers: Sue Stenzel
Dorie Gabor
Lay Reader: Jim Duffy
Greeter: Caroline Chandler
Counters: Marge Culver
Dorie Gabor
Acolyte: ***Volunteer Needed***
Peace Candle: ***Volunteer Needed***
A/V Team: Betsey Wilson
Sound: Betsey Wilson
Flowers: Carole Snider

OCTOBER 17, 2021

Head Usher: ***Volunteer Needed***
Ushers: Dorie Gabor
Evelyn Seager
Lay Reader: Jon Thompson
Greeter: Caroline Chandler
Counters: Marge Culver
Jon Thompson
Acolyte: ***Volunteer Needed***
Peace Candle: ***Volunteer Needed***
A/V Team: ***Volunteer Needed***
Sound: ***Volunteer Needed***
Flowers: Julie Bernard